

## FILM ESTIMATES

Progressive teachers will find dependable advice in these estimates on current film releases. Recognizing that one man's meat may be another man's poison, the National Committee on Current Theatrical Films gives three ratings: A, for discriminating adults; Y, for youth; and C, for children. These estimates are printed by special arrangement with *The Educational Screen*, Chicago.

**CAPTAIN JANUARY** (Shirley Temple, Guy Kibbee) (Fox) Appealing story of old light-house keeper and little girl he rescued. Comic struggle with truant officer, despair over separation and lost job, but rich relatives save day. Shirley's engaging "stunts" can be overdone. She is first an actress.

4-21-36

(A) Entertaining (Y) Very good (C) Excellent  
**EVERYBODY'S OLD MAN** (Irvin Cobb) (Fox) Fairly plausible story of rival firms, with Cobb as sentimental old business genius who saves the heavy-drinking younger generation, puts it to work, runs both firms successfully, and regulates conduct and romance for all concerned. Homely realism.

4-21-36

(A) Rather good (Y) Amusing (C) Little int.  
**FRESHMAN LOVE** (Frank McHugh, Patricia Ellis) (Warner) Easily most inane and senseless "college" film to date. President's daughter vamps great rowers away from other colleges to win crucial race with jazz band furnishing needed rhythm. Thick with absurdities on college life and administration.

3-10-36

(A) Ridiculous (Y) Useless (C) No  
**GARDEN MURDER CASE** (Edmund Lowe) (MGM) Stereotyped murder mystery but well-acted, suspenseful, adequately complex, not over-violent, with pseudo-scientific hypnotism as novelty. Philo Vance, infallible as always, solves three seemingly accidental deaths as murders, and marries heroine.

4-7-36

(A) Fair (Y) Good of kind (C) No  
**GIVE US THIS NIGHT** (Gladys Swarthout, Jan Kiepura) (Para) Musical film suffering from trite story and some undistinguished acting, but notable for the fine voices of two stars and one amusing characterization. Kiepura inclines too much to mere show-off effects with high notes.

3-31-36

(A) (Y) Fairly good (C) Doubtful interest  
**GREAT ZIEGFELD** (Wm. Powell) (MGM) Gorgeous 3-hour spectacle glorifying career of great Broadway producer. High spots of life finely dramatized, scenes from his productions screened in splendor. His dazzling success, despite wild extravagance, a bit disorganizing for many minds. Extraordinary film.

4-14-36

(A) Notable (Y) Doubtful (C) No  
**KLONDIKE ANNIE** (Mae West) (Para.) Brazen box-office bid with the old sex stuff, Mae West again the glittering, mouthy vulgarian. Kills her Chinese paramour, flees to Alaska, impersonating grotesquely a religious "sister" who died on voyage. Affront to good taste and decency.

3-10-36

(A) Disgusting (Y) Unwholesome (C) No  
**LAST OF THE PAGANS** (Mala, Lotus Long, Native cast) (MGM) Much pictorial charm and interest in simple love story of South Seas hero and heroine, separated when ruthless white men force hero into dread phosphate mines, but final reunion is won. Native dialog. English titles.

3-31-36

(A) Good (Y) Good (C) Fairly good

**LITTLE LORD FAUNTLEROY** (F. Bartholomew) (UA) Practically perfect screening of the classic loved by millions for half a century, of the little American who fell heir to an English earldom. Freddie inimitable, cast ideal, presenting with compelling sincerity and truth this sentimental masterpiece.

4-14-36

(A) Charming (Y) Excellent (C) Perfect  
**MESSAGE TO GARCIA** (Beery, Boles, Stanwyck) (Fox) Tense adventure-melodrama piling up perils, pains, tortures, impossible dilemmas and escapes, killings, burlesque comedy and romance in Cuban jungles. Artificial thrills, posing as history, much overdone. Title impertinent, dialog banal.

4-21-36

(A) Depends on taste (Y) No (C) No  
**PETTICOAT FEVER** (R. Montgomery, Myrna Loy) (MGM) Lonely, isolated radio-station keeper in ice-bound Labrador finds thrilling romance when heroine's plane crashes nearby. Comedy complications with elderly fiancé finally solved. Fairly convincing despite artificiality and hero's over-acting at times.

4-21-36

(A-Y) Fairly amusing (C) No interest  
**PRISONER OF SHARK ISLAND** (Warner Baxter) (Fox) Notable portrayal of Dr. Mudd, rewarded for humanely setting Booth's leg by life imprisonment as Lincoln murderer. Unrelieved misery, suffering, bestial cruelty, gruesome surroundings. Final freedom by heroic service. Grim history, painful entertainment.

4-7-36

(A) Strong (Y) Possibly (C) No  
**SUTTER'S GOLD** (Edw. Arnold, Binnie Barnes) (Univ.) Elaborate, ponderous attempt at historical epic of early California, too episodic to be dramatic, more pretentious than effective, and, with climax in the middle, unrelievedly depressing to the end. Waste of able acting and striking sets.

4-14-36

(A) Dull (Y) No (C) No  
**TIMOTHY'S QUEST** (Eleanore Whitney, Tom Keene, Dickie Moore, Virginia Weidler) (Para) Simple sincere little play, modifying the Wiggan novel somewhat, of little boy and sister in search of parents. Dickie Moore delightful for those who like their emotion strong. Love story rather incidental.

3-31-36

(A) Good (Y) Very good (C) Good  
**TOO MANY PARENTS** (Juvenile cast) (Para) Military-school story of boys from broken homes, notably acted, with strong human appeal. Marred only by Hollywood idea that children must be made incredibly wise, painfully smart, or impossibly rude, to be amusing. Mostly worthwhile.

4-7-36

(A) Fairly good (Y) Good (C) Good  
**THE VOICE OF BUGLE ANN** (Lionel Barrymore) (MGM) Intensely appealing story of some very human people and the great part played in their lives by affection for and from a dog. Outstanding role by Barrymore, a sincere romance, an adorable dog, make fine emotional entertainment.

4-14-36

(A-Y) Fine of kind (C) Gd. unless too emotional